

Issue 18: INSIDER'S EDGE: Your questions answered!

Hi Insiders!

Medicaid Marge here with a very special edition of the INSIDER'S EDGE. What makes today special? I'm answering questions submitted by our faithful readers!

Even if you haven't sent in a question, you won't be left out of the loop. (That's why you read the Insider's Edge, right?) **Today's hot topic:** the impact of health reform on former foster care children.

Delving into the Details: Former Foster Children



Welcome back, guys!

You may remember from Issue #4 that Medicaid is expanding to cover former foster care children up to age 26, *regardless of their income*. (No FPL calculations required!) The new rule takes effect on January 1, 2014.

Who exactly is eligible?

To be eligible, a former foster care child must have been receiving foster care services and Medicaid in Maryland as of his or her 18th birthday. It doesn't matter when the individual aged out of the system, so long as he or she is under 26. Former foster care children will be placed in coverage group E05.

Individuals who were reunified with their parents and were not receiving foster care services on their 18th birthday, or who participated in related permanency programs such as subsidized adoption as of that date, are *not* eligible.

How will former foster care children apply for benefits?

Former foster care children will *not* automatically receive benefits when they age out of the system. They must apply using Maryland Health Connection.



It's not as complicated as it sounds! A question in the Health Connection application will ask consumers to indicate if they were in the foster care system.

What if a former foster care child is already enrolled in Medicaid or PAC?

Former foster care children already enrolled in Medicaid will continue to receive full benefits. Everyone enrolled in PAC will automatically be enrolled in full Medicaid benefits on January 1, 2014, as part of the expansion population covering adults up to 138% FPL. Anyone already receiving benefits will be able to indicate their former foster care status when their case is up for redetermination.

Can you give me an example of how the application process will work?

Sure! Carla is twenty-three years old and makes \$29,500 a year (more than 250% FPL for a single person). She is unmarried and doesn't have any children. She is uninsured so she goes to her local Connector Entity in Queen Anne's county to apply for health coverage.



Meet Carla, Insiders!

Carla reports that she left the foster care system on her 18th birthday. The outstanding verifications page states that a caseworker will confirm that she is a former foster care child and contact her if there are any questions. Carla has no active associated cases. A local health department caseworker in Queen Anne's County who receives her case looks up Carla's record in CARES, and if necessary, confirms with her Services case manager or Social Services Administration, to confirm that Carla was enrolled in the foster care system on her eighteenth birthday. Carla is then found eligible for Medicaid.

We'll cover more popular topics in future issues, so don't fret if your question wasn't featured today. If you have outstanding questions and want to get in on the conversation, send them to dhmh.medicaidmarge@maryland.gov.